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Compiled by Hana Knížková

Abbreviations:

ArOr = Archiv Orientální NO = Nový Orient

LN = Lidové noviny = Book Review R

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LYDIAN INTERPRETATIONS

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Foreword. I. The interpretations. 1. The words viśśis niviścr. 2. The word aśinaś. 3. The root c-. 4. The word karoś and the name Karoś. 5. The verb enskibid. 6. The words teśaśtid, śrfaśtid. 7. The word citalad. 8. The fragment ... ftellis. 9. The mason's mark tiv. 10. A remark to the syntaxis of the pronouns in the imprecation formulae 11. An anaphorical pronoun? 12. The ending $-\lambda < -l\lambda$. 13. The ending $-l < -\lambda$ or instead of it. 14. The absence of endings. II. Lydian and Hittite.

The far from numerous set of the Lydian inscriptions, which were found mostly in Sardis, has the advantage of having been edited in an excellent and exemplary manner. Enno Littmann (Sardis, Publications of the American Society for the Excavation of Sardis, VI, 1, Leyden 1916) and his successor, W. H. Buckler (Sardis, VI, 2, Leyden 1924) applied the best technique and the soundest judgement to their task. And as Buckler has re-edited also the inscriptions already edited by Littmann, not only the newly found ones, his edition contains a full set of 51 Lydian inscriptions in minuscules, majuscules and photographs. The two inscriptions identified subsequently are very short; they are included in the convenient edition of Johannes Friedrich, Kleinasiatische Sprachdenkmäler (Kleine Texte für Vorlesungen und Übungen, hggbn. von H. Lietzmann, 163), Berlin 1932.

There is a considerable number of papers dealing with the Lydian. It would serve no purpose, however, to record here all of them. The most important are: K a h le's and S o m m e r's discussion of the great bilingual inscription. This paper is the best interpretation of the inscription from which we derive the knowledge of a great part of Lydian words.

Wilhelm Brandenstein has written a series of papers on the subject.²) In these papers, he uses the method of combination to penetrate into the meaning of the Lydian inscriptions; he then proceeds to grammatical analyses of the material thus gained.

These are the most important publications on the Lydian inscriptions. Of course that there is a great lot of other articles on the Lydian, even some by the authors mentioned, but they have not the same fundamental relevance as the papers quoted.

1) Paul Kahle und Ferdinand Sommer, Die lydisch-aramäische Bilingue Kleinasiatische Forschungen 1, 1930 (really published June 1927), 18-86.

²⁾ Die lydische Sprache I, Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes 36, 1929, 263—304; Die lydische Sprache II, WZKM 38, 1932, 1—67; Die Nominalformen des Lydischen, Caucasica 9, 1931, 25—40; Die lydische Nominalflexion, Caucasica 10, 1932, 67—94.

The reading of the Lydian alphabet may be considered as comparatively sure, although it goes without saying that the accurate phonetic character of the sounds represented by c, v, \tilde{e} etc. escapes us.

The purpose of the present paper is to undertake some interpretations of the Lydian inscriptions and their language. In this, only the method of combination is used because we think it to be the only adequate instrument for such a task; therefore, no etymologies are proposed or discussed.

Some remarks upon the affinity of Lydian and Hittite then follow.

It hardly requires long argumentation to show that studies of this sort are very difficult and cannot have such absolutely sure results as if there is a better material at hand.

The method of combination is a distinct improvement when compared with the more wild etymologies which try to find the signification of a word. But even this method has certain limits of its possibilities. The number of the Lydian inscriptions is very small; it follows that a great part of the Lydian words are ἄπαξ εἰοημένα. And those which are not, are found twice or three times, or in formulae which are identic. The result of this state of affairs is that we can recognize only a very approximative signification of the words, and this only when we luckily are able to catch the general tenor of the passage in question. (Only the bilingual inscriptions give the relatively accurate meaning of a small number of words; but even this help is not very great because the Aramean text of the only longer bilingual inscription is not absolutely clear either.)

Another disadvantage of this situation is the necessity to undertake formal analyses of passages and words sometimes without knowing their meaning; this procedure is absolutely indispensable, but it is fraught with danger. E. g. we are compelled to assume that formal similarity implies a similarity of meaning. This is the case with the greatest majority of words in all the languages; the matter is so obvious that it is not necessary to produce examples. But there are always some instances of homonymy. Brandens "sing" 2nd sing must shake our absolute confidence in the procedure just described; but he was equally right in remarking that we cannot do anything else but undertake the risk because there is no other way to penetrate into the structure of the language. And then, we know and are relieved to know that such mischievous identities of words are always, in any case exceptional.

The result of these considerations is that we have to apply the greatest possible caution and moderation to all our attempts to interpret the Lydian inscriptions. It is much better to get some smaller facts definitely established and thus to gain some certain ground for further studies than to try one's hand in far-reaching theories and hypotheses which can be used only as material for criticism, not as a base, if only a working base, for further research.

I. THE INTERPRETATIONS.

1. The words viśśis niviścy.

In several inscriptions, we read the words viśśis niviścy:

7/5: fakav viššis niviššev varbtokid || 2n)

6/5: fakav viššis niviššev varbtokid

8/11: fakav viššis nivišcv varbtokid ||

10/23: akar viśśis niviścy varbtok ||

The best interpretation given up to now was suggested by Brandenstein,3) who translates $vi\acute{s}\acute{s}is$ "jeder".4) $nivi\acute{s}cv^5$) is, according to Brandenstein, identic with $vi\acute{s}\acute{s}is$, only it is amplified by ni-; this interpretation is founded on the passage

23/2 sq.: akit est sirmal pis fenstibid niviścy, fak

now (on) this temples) who damages whatsoever, now

In this passage we hardly could suppose any other signification of the word $nivi\acute{s}cv$. If so, it could not mean anything else but a part of the temple; and if this were the case, why should only one appurtenance of the temple be under divine protection? And which of them should be so eminently more important than the others, those which are not mentioned?

An interpretation of the passages quoted above brings the same result: In the clause which begins with the summarising particle fak, followed by $a\nu$, obliquus of the enclitic demonstrative pronoun $-a\acute{s}$, the finite verb must be $varbtokid^{6b}$), because it has the same ending as $f\~{e}ns\lambda bid$ which is well known from the bilingual inscription 1, and stands at the end of the clause which is the position to be expected if it is a verb. If this is so, $vi\acute{s}is$ cannot be anything else but the subject, because the only word that remains, $nivi\acute{s}\acute{e}v$, is characterised by its ending as an obliquus.

From the context of the inscriptions it is quite clear that the formula fakav - varbtokid states the punishment that will be inflicted upon the culprit who performs the forbidden action stipulated in the previous clause. In all other formulae of this sort we know from the Lydian inscriptions, the punishment is inflicted by a deity. This will hardly be the case here, because it is quite improbable that $vi\acute{s}\acute{s}is$ would be simply "(a) god"; against such a supposition speaks the fact that in all other examples the punishing deity in question is always specifically called by name, never referred to only generally. (The etymology of Littmann who tried to get the signification of "God" for $vi\acute{s}\acute{s}is$ by the comparation of Etruscan ais which perhaps can mean "God" was disposed of by Brandenstein;

²a) | signifies the end of the inscription.

³⁾ WZKM 36, 1929, 280 sq.

⁴⁾ WZKM 38, 1932, 13.

⁵⁾ Cf. intistev 47/2, for the ending; Brandenstein, Caucasica 10, 1932, 82.

⁶⁾ Brandenstein, WZKM 36, 1929, 271 sq.; sirmas "temple" is concluded by combination; the inscription is written on a temple which is thus the most probable object to be referred to in the protective part of the formula of imprecation.

⁶b) For fak, -av and varbtok see p. 539 and 541.